

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 2-4, 8, 10, 26 and 31, as follows.

Please cancel, without prejudice, Claim 9.

Please add new Claims 38-40, as follows.

Claim 1. (Cancelled)

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 3 further comprising [[the steps of:

h)]] determining [[the]] entitlement status corresponding to said user identifier with respect to said set of information.

01 Claim 3. (Currently Amended) A method of providing access to information comprising the steps of:

a) a central repository receiving a call from an application program, said call specifying a user identifier and a requested set of information of a plurality of sets of information;

b) in response to said call, said central repository determining the a location of said requested information corresponding to said user identifier by:

b1) determining a plurality of fields associated with said requested set of information, wherein said fields describe information distributed over a plurality of databases; and

b2) accessing a stored mapping of said fields to said databases;

c) using said user identifier, said central repository retrieving information corresponding to a first of said plurality of fields from a first of said plurality of databases;

d) using said user identifier, said central repository retrieving information corresponding to a second of said plurality of fields from a second of said plurality of databases;

e) said central repository providing said set of information to said application program, retrieved from said first and second databases;

f) said central repository storing in a cache said set of information which was requested by said application program; and

g) said central repository moving a portion of said information from said first of said plurality of databases to said second of said plurality of databases, wherein said moving of information is performed transparently to the application program

~~g) if a pre-determined time has passed since said set of information was accessed, removing said set of information from said cache.~~

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 3 further comprising [[the step of:

h)]] said central repository updating a first of said plurality of fields in said set of said information by writing information to a first of said plurality of databases.

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Claim 5. (Original) The method of Claim 4 wherein said update is based upon responses given by a user of said application program.

Claim 6. (Original) The method of Claim 4 wherein said update is based upon monitoring activity of a user of said application program, said activity being related to said information.

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 3 wherein said databases comprise a first database with entitlement information thereon and a second database with user profile information thereon.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 3 further comprising the steps of:

said central repository providing a parameter to said application program that is used to track active user records; and

said central repository receiving said parameter from said application program in order to track a user record associated with said call; and

said central repository deleting said user record if said user record is inactive, based on the received parameter.

Claim 9. (Cancelled)

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having stored thereon program instructions for providing access to information stored on a plurality of databases:

said program operable to logically map a plurality of fields of said information into a plurality of logical collections of said information, wherein at least one said logical collections comprise a plurality of said fields of said information;

said program further operable to process requests from an application program, said requests identifying a first of said plurality of logical collections of said information and a first of a plurality of users;

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said program further operable to physically map said plurality of fields of said information to said plurality of databases, wherein said program is operable to determine which of said plurality of databases contain at least a first of said plurality of fields of said information corresponding to said first of said plurality of logical collections of said information for said first of said plurality of users;

said program further operable to retrieve said information from at least two of said databases, said information corresponding to said user identified by said request from said application program;

said program further operable to transfer a portion of said information from said first of said plurality of databases to said second of said plurality of databases, wherein said moving of information is performed transparently to the application program; and

said program further operable to store said retrieved information and to remove said retrieved information if it has not been accessed for a pre-determined period of time.

Claim 11. (Original) The computer readable medium of Claim 10 wherein said plurality of databases comprises a first database and a second database.

Claim 12. (Original) The computer readable medium of Claim 11 wherein said first database comprises entitlement information.

Claim 13. (Original) The computer readable medium of Claim 11 wherein said second database comprises user profile information.

Claim 14. (Cancelled)

Claim 15. (Original) The computer readable medium of Claim 10 wherein said program is further operable to update said information for said first of said logical collections of said information by writing to a first of said plurality of databases.

Claim 16. (Original) The computer readable medium of Claim 10 wherein said physical mapping further maps said plurality of fields of said information to a database which is external to a system in which said computer readable medium resides.

Claim 17. (Original) The computer readable medium of Claim 10 wherein said information relates to a single user.

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Claim 18. (Original) The computer readable medium of Claim 10 wherein said information comprises information pertaining to a group of users.

Claims 19-25. (Cancelled)

Claim 26. (Currently Amended) Means for providing access to information stored on a plurality of databases each having thereon a plurality of fields of information for a plurality of users, comprising:

means for logically mapping said fields of information onto a plurality of logical collections of said information, wherein at least one said logical collections comprise a plurality of said fields of said information;

means for processing requests from an application program, said requests identifying a first of said plurality of logical collections of said information and a first of said plurality of users;

means for physically mapping said plurality of fields of said information to said plurality of databases, wherein said program is operable to determine which of said plurality of databases contain said fields of said information corresponding to said first of said plurality of logical collections of said information for said first of said plurality of users;

means for retrieving said information corresponding to said fields, said information corresponding to said user identified by said request from said application program;

means for transferring a portion of said information from said first of said plurality of databases to said second of said plurality of databases, wherein said moving of information is performed transparently to the application program; and

means for storing said requested set of information and removing said requested set of information if it has not been accessed for a pre-determined period of time.

Claim 27. (Previously Presented) The means of Claim 26 further comprising means for updating said information for said first of said logical collections of said information by writing to a first of said plurality of databases.

Claim 28. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 3, further comprising repeating said a) – e) for application programs that are compliant with different programming languages from one other.

Claim 29. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of Claim 10, wherein said program is further operable to process requests originating from more than one programming language.

Claim 30. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of Claim 10, wherein said program is further operable to process requests originating from more than one computing platform.

Claim 31. (Currently Amended) In a computer system having a processor coupled to a bus, a computer readable medium coupled to said bus and having stored therein a computer program that when executed by said processor causes said computer system to implement a method of providing a data repository, said method comprising:

a) receiving a call from an application program, said call specifying a user identifier and a requested set of information of a plurality of sets of information;

b) in response to said call, determining a location of said requested information corresponding to said user identifier by:

b1) determining a plurality of fields associated with said requested set of information, wherein said fields describe information distributed over said plurality of databases; and

b2) accessing a stored mapping of said fields to said databases;

c) using said user identifier, retrieving information corresponding to a first of said plurality of fields from a first of said plurality of databases;

d) using said user identifier, retrieving information corresponding to a second of said plurality of fields from a second of said plurality of databases;

e) providing said set of information to said application program;

f) storing said set of information in the data repository; and

g) moving a portion of said set of information from said first of said plurality of databases to said second of said plurality of databases, wherein said moving is performed transparently to the application program

~~if a pre-determined time has passed since said set of information was accessed, removing said set of information from said data repository.~~

Claim 32. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of Claim 31 wherein said method further comprises:

h) determining the entitlement status corresponding to said user identifier with respect to said set of information.

Claim 33. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of Claim 31 wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

h) updating a second of said plurality of fields in said set of said information by writing information to a first of said plurality of databases.

Claim 34. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of Claim 31 wherein said requested set of information comprises information relating to a single user.

Claim 35. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of Claim 31 wherein said requested set of information comprises information relating to a group of users.

Claim 36. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of Claim 31, wherein said method further comprises:

h) providing a parameter to said application program that is used to track active user records.

Claim 37. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of Claim 36, wherein said a) of said method further comprises receiving said parameter from said application program, wherein a user record associated with said call is tracked.

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Claim 38 (New) The computer readable medium of Claim 10, wherein said program uses a first application program interface that allows reading and updating records on the plurality of databases and a second application program interface that allows creation of records on the plurality of databases, wherein said first application program interface is usable via an objection request broker and said second application program interface is not available via the objection request broker.

Claim 39. (New) The method of Claim 3, further comprising:
said central repository performing concurrency management of information stored on said plurality of databases.

Claim 40. (New) The method of Claim 39, further comprising;
said central repository associating a version number with a user record;
said central repository updating the version number if the user record is updated;
said central repository providing the current version number of said user record to applications requesting said user record; and
said central repository allowing a write involving said user record only if a version number of said user record that is provided by an application attempting said write matches the version number currently associated with said user record.
